STONE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of
Health and Chief Public
Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1970

STONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970

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To the Chairman and Members of the Stone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present my Annual Report for 1970.

The population of the Stone Rural District in mid 1970 was 20,750 which is an increase of 190 over 1969.

The number of live births during the year was 286 - a decrease of 55 over 1969. This gives an adjusted live birth rate for the area of 13.1 per thousand (England and Wales 16.0).

There were 203 deaths from all causes in the area - an increase of 14 over 1969. This gives an adjusted death rate of 9.8 per thousand (England and Wales 11.7). Four children died under the age of one year.

Ischaemic heart disease continues to be the highest single cause of death with a total of 44. The other two killing diseases are cerebrovascular disease (i.e. "strokes"), and pneumonia with 37 and 17 respectively.

No action was taken during the year in connection with the National Assistance Act - Section 47.

272 notifications of infectious diseases were received, most of which were cases of measles. During the year outbreaks of chicken-pox, mumps and rubella were reported by Head Teachers of local schools.

The atmospheric pollution results obtained during 1970 from the grit deposit gauges in the area show the usual seasonal variations, but taken over the whole year the level of pollution shows little change from the figures for 1969.

My particular thanks to the staff of the department for their service and courteous efficiency. I am also most grateful to the members of the Committee for their continued interest in public health matters.

D. H. MACFARLAND

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1970

Chairman	Councillor	A. E. Allinson
Vice-Chairman	"	B. J. Davies
Members	"	T. E. Ball
	"	A. Bartlett
	"	E. A. J. Bevan
	"	H. Butter
	"	R. J. Crellin
	"	Mrs. F. S. Dainton
	"	Mrs. D. E. L. Dickson
	"	J. W. Durose
	"	J. K. Evans
	"	Rev. G. F. Greenup
	"	H. Hammersley
	"	J. A. Hobson
	"	Dr. A. S. Law
	"	W. R. G. Lawrence
	"	G. T. Leese
	"	W. Potter
	"	A. M. Timmis
	"	T. E. Tipper
	"	Mrs. F. Wain
	"	H. T. Walton
	"	R. D. Wilkinson
	"	G. A. H. Williams
	"	F. D. Wood
	"	A. A. Dofsky
	"	Mrs. F. Matthews
	"	Mrs. R. Cheadle

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FOR THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health
M. L. Burr, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health
C. Arthur, M.B., B.C.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor
B. K. Lovatt, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.
Certified Meat and Food Inspector

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector
Miss E. E. Freakley, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Certified Meat and Food Inspector

Deputy Surveyor and Additional Public Health Inspector
W. S. Davis, M.A.P.H.I., A.C.S.I., H N.C.

Additional Public Health Inspector
C. Gaskin. M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health and Surveyor's Department Staff

Clerks
E. J. Bevan
Miss S. Baker
Mrs. D. M. Rose

Shorthand Typist
Mrs. J. M. Taylor

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Domiciliary Nursing and General Practitionery Services

District Nursing, midwifery and health visiting services are provided by the County Council under the administration of the Stafford Area Health Committee. The Staffordshire Executive Council supplies family doctor services through a number of General Practitioners in the area.

Hospital Services

When required, cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Bucknall Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

Out-patients and general hospital services are provided at the Staffordshire General Infirmary and the North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, Stoke-on-Trent. Aged and chronic sick patients are accommodated at Fernleigh Hospital, Stafford and Trent Hospital, Stone. Part III accommodation is provided at Roseneath, Stone.

Yarnfield Hospital admits convalescent cases from the Stafford General Infirmary and other hospitals in the region.

In the district are also Groundslow Hospital for medical and maternity cases, Standon Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, and Stallington Hall Hospital for the mentally sub-normal.

School Clinics and Welfare Services

These are held at Eccleshall Methodist School Room, Barlaston Village Hall and Tittensor Village Hall.

Clinics are held at the following times:-

Infant Welfare Centre,	Eccleshall Methodist School	: Fortnightly Friday Mornings
" " "	Barlaston Village Hall	: Every 4th Tuesday afternoon
" " "	Tittensor Village Hall	: Every 2nd Tuesday afternoon

The Staffordshire County Council also provide specialised clinics where defects of speech, vision and hearing and allied conditions can be treated when these are referred following school medical examinations, and by general practitioners, health visitors and others.

Tuberculosis Services

A tuberculosis clinic is held at Stafford General Infirmary to which patients in the Rural District travel. A tuberculosis health visitor is employed by the County Council operating part-time in the area, visiting in the home where appropriate.

Laboratory Services

Specimens of milk, water and sewage effluent samples, together with suspected unsound foods are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Staff rd for examination. Chemical analyses are performed by the County Analyst.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance service is provided from Stone Ambulance Station in conjunction with the Stafford Ambulance Station.

Meals-on-Wheels Service

During 1970 a total of 6,589 meals were delivered in five areas of the Rural District as follows:-

1. The canteen at Drake Hall continued to supply meals for the Eccleshall area and during the year this was extended by arrangement with Stafford Rural Dsitrict Council to elderly people living just over the Rural District boundary. A total of 2,476 meals were delivered.

2. In the Hilderstone, Milwich and Saverley Green area 1,184 meals were served and were provided by Blythe Colour Ltd.

3. During the year Blythe Bridge and Meir Heath were split into two services both being supplied by the Simplex Electric Company. 1,083 meals were provided in Blythe Bridge and 862 in Meir Heath. The Blythe Bridge service is run in conjunction with Cheadle Rural District Council and serves people on both sides of the boundary.

4. The Barlaston service commenced early in the year and serves Tittensor, Meaford and Trentham in addition to Barlaston. 984 meals were served.

We are very grateful to the local organisations who prepare the meals and to the very willing voluntary helpers who distribute the meals without these people the 'service' would not be possible.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	60,981
Population (Registrar General Return)	20,750
Number of inhabited houses and flats	6,585
Population density per house	3.2
Rateable value	915,865
Sum represented by a penny rate	£9.030

INDUSTRIES

Pottery	Electricity Generating Station
Domestic Electrical Appliances	Agricultural Engineering
Farming	Armaments Testing
Corn Milling	Civil Engineering

GENERAL HEALTH IN THE AREA INCLUDING VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics given in the form of tables, details of births and deaths and other various rates which are compared with those for England and Wales. Being based on a smaller population, the individual example are more subject to variation than where larger populations are involved, and interpretation can be misleading unless this is taken into account.

Table No. 1

	Live Births		Still Births		Deaths of Infants under one year of age		Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age		Deaths of Infants under one week of age	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Legitimate	133	137	3	1	3	1	1	0	1	0
Illegitimate	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	139	147	3	1	3	1	1	0	1	0

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE

Table No. 2

Comparability Factors Births 0.95 Deaths 1.16

	Stone R.D.	Eng. & Wales
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.8	16.0
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	13.1	16.0
Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	14	13
Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.8	11.7
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	4	7
Death Rate for infants under one year per 1,000 Live Births	14	18
Death Rate for infants under four weeks per 1,000 Live Births	3	12
Death Rate for infants under one week of age per 1,000 total Live Births	3	11
Still Births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	17	23

Table No. 3 ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

		Male	Female	Total	1969
B6(2)	Other Tuberculosis	1	-	1	-
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	1	-
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm - Oesophagus	-	-	-	1
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	6	2	8	6
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	3	2	5	5
B19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm - Larynx	-	-	-	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	7	-	7	9
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	2	2	4
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	3	3	-
B19(10)	Leukaemia	-	1	1	3
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	8	2	10	10
B20(20)	Benign and other Malignant Neoplasms	-	1	1	-
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-	2
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	-	-	1
B23	Anaemias	-	-	-	2
B24	Meningitis	1	-	1	-
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	-	1	1	-
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	3	-	3	5
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	-	-	2
B27	Hypertensive Disease	-	3	3	3
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	31	13	44	49
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	5	8	7
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	17	20	37	30
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	1	8	10
B31	Influenza	5	2	7	5
B32	Pneumonia	12	5	17	10
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	2	4	8
B33(2)	Asthma	1	1	2	2
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1	2
B34	Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	-	-	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	4	2	6	2
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1	-
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	2	2	-
B42	Congenital Anomalies	3	-	3	-
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	-	1	1	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	3	6	1
BE48	All Other Accidents	-	4	4	3
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	1	3	3
	TOTALS	124	79	203	189

Table No. 4

TUBERCULOSIS				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
On Register at 31st December, 1969	3	4	-	1
New Cases notified or transferred in during 1970	1	1	-	-
Deaths during 1970	-	-	-	-
Removed from Register on transfer out or recovery during 1970	-	-	-	-
Total remaining on Register at the 31st December, 1970	4	6	-	1

Table No. 5

Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the District at the end of the last five years

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1966	23	7	2	6	38
1967	3	5	-	1	9
1968	2	3	-	1	6
1969	3	5	-	1	9
1970	4	6	-	1	11

Table No. 6

INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious and notifiable diseases sent in by Medical Practitioners during the year 1970.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total 1970	Total 1969
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	1
Measles	15	110	82	39	246	32
Dysentery	-	-	4	-	4	6
Food Poisoning	-	-	6	-	6	7
Infective Jaundice	2	-	1	-	3	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	2	-	2	2
Meningitis	2	1	-	-	3	-
Whooping Cough	1	3	1	2	7	-

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The following samples of water were taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical analysis:-

Bacteriological	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Well	3	5
Spring	1	1
Borehole	6	1
Main	17	4
Total	27	11

Chemical		
Well	4	2
Spring	2	Nil
Borehole	6	Nil
Main	Nil	Nil
Total	12	2

SEWERAGE

Barlaston Parish

Tittensor Road, Barlaston. As a result of complaints received from residents in Whitethorn Avenue and Station Road area concerning flooding during exceptional heavy rainfall. Tests were carried out of the drainage system and a sewer diversion was undertaken. Subsequent tests have suggested that further flooding is unlikely to reoccur.

Rough Close. Due to financial restrictions this scheme had to be postponed until Hilderstone, Milwich and Meaford had been finalised.

Chebsey Parish

Norton Bridge. Effluent results from these works proved to be troublesome and after discussions with the Trent River Authority it was agreed to prepare a scheme to recirculate the bacteria bed effluent through the plant. It is anticipated that this scheme will be approved by the Council early in 1971 for implimentation.

Eccleshall Parish

Eccleshall. The Public Health Committee after considering three proposals put before them namely:-

a) Connection of Eccleshall to Swynnerton R.O.F. Works.
b) Expansion to existing Eccleshall Works.
c) Complete replacement of Works at Eccleshall.

Resolved to accept scheme (b) for approval by the Department of the Environment and the Trent River Authority.

Fulford Parish

Fulford. An additional length of sewer was laid to enable development to proceed.

Hilderstone and Milwich Parishes

After further discussions with the Staffordshire County Council, it was decided to submit separate schemes for approval. By the end of 1970 preparation of the scheme for Hilderstone was well advanced for invitation of tenders early in 1971. Milwich scheme has experienced some difficulty with the owner of the land required for the sewage works. After further discussions, the owner agreed to an alternative site.

On this basis plans for a revised scheme will be prepared during 1971.

Stone Rural Parish

Aston. Following negotiations with a developer, the Council agreed to contribute towards the cost of enlarging the sewage installation provided by the development company, to provide sufficient capacity for draining the village of Aston. This installation plant will be an extended aeration unit.

Meaford. In December the alternative scheme to serve the hamlets of Bury Bank and Meaford had been prepared for the Ministry and the Trent River Authority approval

Swynnerton Parish

Hanchurch. The transfer from the City of Stoke-on-Trent to Stone Rural District Council had not been resolved by the Valuers. Any preparation of a scheme for the village has therefore had to be deferred.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection. The collection of household refuse continues to be carried out thoughout the whole district with four vehicles (3 compressmores and 1 crushloader). Three are in regular service and the fourth is used for special collections from establishments and for standby use.

During the year the Council purchased a 35 cwt 5 cu.yd side loader for cleansing of lay-bys, bus shelters and other special requirements.

Collections from 6,585 premises is carried out at approximately ten day intervals and some 40,735 miles were covered during the year

Refuse Disposal. All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping on the central tip situated at R.O.F. Site, Swynnerton.

Mobile Drainage Service. Emptying of pail closets continues to steadily decrease as conversions to septic tank installations and connections to new drainage systems are made.

The Council still operate a free annual service for domestic tanks.

HOUSING

A. Repair - Housing and Public Health Acts

1. Total number of houses repaired in consequence of informal action (all Acts) 15

Section 9 and 10, Housing Act, 1957

2. Number of notices served: Informal - Nil. Formal - Nil.
3. Number of houses rendered fit after service of notices:-
   a) By owner ... ... Nil
   b) By Local Authority ... ... Nil

B. Sections 16 & 17 - Housing Act, 1957

1. Number of Time and Place Notices Served 12
2. Number of undertakings accepted 5
3. Number of Closing Orders made 3
4. Number of Demolition Orders made 5
5. Number of houses demolished following Demolition Order 3

C. Clearance Area

1. Number of areas represented during the year ... ... Nil
2. Number of houses included ... ... Nil
3. Action taken during the year:-
   (i) Houses demolished by Local Authority or owners:-
      a) Unfit 7
      b) Others ... ... Nil
   (ii) Numbers displaced:-
      a) Individuals 4
      b) Families 2

D. Improvement Grants

1. Standard Grants:-
   (i) Number of applications approved:-
      a) Owner/Occupiers 3
      b) Tenanted houses 3
      c) Estimated value £1,204
   (ii) Number of grants paid during the year 8
      Value of grants paid £2,050

2. Discretionary Grants

   Conversions
   (i) Number of applications approved 8
      a) Owner/Occupiers 2
      b) Tenanted houses 6
      c) Estimated Value £4,766

   Improvements
   (i) Number of applications approved:-
      a) Owner/Occupiers 18
      b) Tenanted houses 11
      c) Estimated value £18,089

(ii)	Number of grants paid	30
	Value of grants paid	£13,799

E. Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificate of Disrepair	Nil

General

Number of houses erected during the year:-

1.	By Local Authority (houses and flats)	96
2.	By private enterprise	47
	Total	143

Number of Council owned dwellings at 31st December, 1970:-

1.	Erected up to 1940	93
2.	Erected between 1947 and 1969	1,138
3.	Erected during 1970	96
4.	Purchased from private owners	23
	Total	1,350

Welfare Units

Eccleshall. This unit comprises of 12 flatlets and 14 flats with general welfare facilities for the elderly, a warden's flat and 4 flats on the second floor for general housing allocation. During the year two welfare flats have been re-allocated.

Barlaston. This unit, comprising of 26 bedsitters, and 5 one bed two persons units, a guest room and a warden's flat. Also there are 5 flats for general housing allocation, and tenanted in August. The official opening was performed by the Rt. Honorable Hugh Fraser M.P.

Housing Survey

Owing to pressure of other work it has not been possible to proceed with the survey of parishes.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

The following table gives details of meat inspection at the three private slaughterhouses during the year 1970.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	302	Nil	29	2,347	359
Number Inspected	302	Nil	29	2,347	359
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	-	-	95	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	6.3%	-	-	4.0%	3.6%
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.27%
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-

Regular meat inspection is carried out and all meat killed in the slaughterhouses is inspected as soon after slaughter as possible. Apart from public holidays most of this work is carried out during normal office hours.

Weight of meat condemned:-

1.	Tuberculosis	14lbs.
2.	Other diseases or condition	190lbs.
3.	Carcase meat (contaminated in transit)	4,480lbs.
		4,684lbs.

The condemned meat at the slaughterhouses and butchers' premises was disposed of by the butchers to manufacturers of animal by-products in accordance with the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969.

Three slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard were licensed during the year. Eleven men were licensed to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958. A detailed inspection of the slaughterhouses is carried out from time to time in order to ensure that as high a standard of hygiene as possible is observed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises and Food Shops

The number and types of food businesses carried on in the Stone Rural District are as follows:-

Butchers	7
General Provisions	38
Bread, cakes and sugar confectionery	6
Catering	12
Greengrocery	4
Baking and bread etc	1
Public Houses	41
Factory canteens	4
Clubs	10

Inspections were carried out during the year to ensure that the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 were being complied with. Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food are in operation in the district and are administered in conjuction with the above Regulations.

The following amount of food other than butchers' meat was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the owners:-

Cooked meat and meat products	61lbs
Frozen Foods	1241lbs
	1301lbs

Foreign Matter in Food

Two complaints were received of foreign matter in food, one in Rose Hip Syrup and the other in milk. A further complaint was received with regard to mould in Yoghurt. All were investigated but no formal action was taken.

Manufactured Food. Six butchers' premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act,1955 for the preparation and manufacture of sausage and pressed meat intended for sale for human consumption.

Ice Cream. There are now 46 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream in the area. All the premises sell prepacked ice cream.

Milk Sampling. Routine sampling of milk is undertaken by the Sampling Officers of the Staffordshire County Council.

Food Poisoning. 6 cases of food poisoning were notified by the Public Health Laboratory during the year, 4 of these being in one family, and the other two being individual cases.

Diseases of Animals. During the year 45 notifications of suspected Anthrax were received but all were subsequently withdrawn.

GENERAL

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Number on Register at end of year.....38
Number of inspectionsfor all purposes 12

All the factories are mechanically powered. It was not found necessary to serve any notices during the year.

Outworks

One notification was received of an outworker employed in the district. A visit was made and the premises found satisfactory.

Shops Act, 1912-1950

Due to pressure of other work very little work has been done in this direction.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

During the year work proceeded slowly on detailed inspection of registered premises. Minor contraventions were found in 5 premises. There are 70 premises on the register including 19 offices, 32 retail shops and 19 catering establishments.

A general inspection of 9 premises was carried out and a total of 65 visits were made. Contraventions in relation to temperature, ventilation, eating facilities and first aid equipment were found and put right by informal action.

Petroleum Acts

Sixty-Eight were issued during the year for the storage of 100,500 gallons of petroleum spirit. In addition, three licences were issued for the storage of 10,200 gallons of petroleum mixtures.

Cinematograph Acts, 1909-1952
Theatres Act, 1843
Theatres Act, 1968

8 Stage Play licences were issued during 1970. Visits and inspections were made in conjunction with the Staffordshire County Fire Service to ensure that the premises were satisfactory from the point of view of lighting, seating, sanitary accommodation and means of escape in case of fire.

Rodent Control

The Council employs a full time Rodent Operative and the table below shows the type of premises and the number of visits made.

Council Sites - Tips Sewage Disposal Works, etc.,

No. of sites visited.....16
No. of visits for treatment.....259

Council Housing Sites.

No. of sites visited.....21
No. of visits for treatment.....84

Business Premises.

No. of premises visited.....29
No. of visits for treatment.....30

Private Property.

No. of houses visited.....103
No. of visits for treatment.....110

Farms and Business Contracts.

No. of Contracts..... 43
No. of Inspections.....301
No. of Treatments carried out.....181
No. of Farms Surveyed..... 18

Contracts are available to farmers and owners of business premises for the clearance of rats and mice from their premises.

"Rat Free Area Campaign". During the year a "Rat Free Area Campaign" was inaugurated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. For the campaign an area of land was chosen at Swynnerton and was centred on the Estate owned by Lord Stafford. A demonstration was held in November at Sandyford Farm, Swynnerton and was attended by representatives from the Council, farmers and various authorities who had interests in the area. This demonstration was followed by an extensive rat baiting programme in which all occupiers, land owners, the local authority and others participated in. A follow up to determine the degree of reinfestation will be carried out during the early part of 1971.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Three premises were registered during the year for the boarding of dogs and cats. Inspections were carried out to ensure that the premises were kept in a satisfactory condition.

Pet Animal Act, 1951

No licences were issued under this Act.